

BLACK DIAMOND
WESTERN

AUTHORIZED
A. C. M. P.

CONFORMS
to the
COMICS
CODE

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



10¢

PDC

APRIL
NO. 33

3
FEATURE-LENGTH
BLACK DIAMOND
STORIES!

LEV GLEASON, PUB., CHARLES BIRO AND BOB WOOD, EDITORS

IT'S THE
BLACK
DIAMOND!

RUN,
OR IT'S
OUR
NECKS!

I TOLD YOU
THE BLACK
DIAMOND WOULDN'T
LET ME DOWN!

CHARLES
BIRO

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Exciting... Amazing News from Alton Laboratories to All Sufferers of **PIMPLES**

**Acne, Blackheads, and Other
Externally caused Skin Blemishes**

**NO OTHER MEDICATED
SKIN FORMULA*
CAN MAKE THIS
STATEMENT:**

Only Alton Medicated Skin Formula #38 Will Cover
The Entire Face... or Large Areas of Skin... Uniformly
—Blending With Your Own Complexion To Hide All
Skin Blemishes... While It Works!

It's astounding... this new, revolutionary Formula which we believe makes
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easily the entire face, if necessary, can be smoothly covered. Alton has a life-like skin color; blends beautifully,
applies like a dream. Alton is ideal as a medication base
under make-up, too. You can look your best (Alton whisks
skin blemishes out of sight) yet know that at the same
time Alton is working. Combines active ingredients used
by many leading skin specialists. Not greasy, has a pleasant
scent, and is absolutely harmless. Remains intact until
you wish to remove it. It's also water-repellent. In every
way, Alton is the modern skin preparation, developed to
answer the needs of those who care—and to answer them
smartly, intelligently, and economically.

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to GIRLS & WOMEN

Embarrassed by "peri-
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to your face during
these trying times.

In addition to Alton Medicated Skin
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Now, while the memory of prying eyes
deepens your misery, resolve to do
something about your skin worries.
Send for the Alton Skin Combination
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thrilled and delighted, or **DOUBLE
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Physicians & Hospitals desiring to make clinical tests will receive our complete cooperation.
Please write at once.

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This ironclad guarantee assures you the following: Either you are
thrilled and delighted, or you may return the unused portion to us
within 10 days and receive **DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK.**
ALTON LABORATORIES, INC.



*To the best
of our present
knowledge.

Boys... Girls... Men & Women...

No matter your age... no matter your sex,
the good things that make a full life are
your heritage. Don't let them slip away
because you did nothing about your blem-
ished skin. Save your present—and your
future... send today for Alton's Medicated
Skin Formula #38 and Special Skin
Cleanser. You will be grateful you did!

Try ALTON at our risk!

Skeptical? Wonder whether Alton can really
do the job? That's a healthy attitude, and we
welcome the chance to show you, at no risk
to you. Yes, if you're not delighted in every
way in just 10 days, simply return the un-
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you paid but **DOUBLE YOUR MONEY
BACK.** You have the chance to find skin
happiness—and we take all the risk!

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Alton Laboratories, Inc., Dept. S-301
363 Central Park Ave., Yonkers, N. Y.

Rush, in plain wrapper, Alton Skin Combination
consisting of Medicated Skin Formula #38, and
Special Skin Cleanser. I will pay postman just \$2
plus postage. If not delighted, may return unused
portion within 10 days for refund of **DOUBLE MY
PURCHASE PRICE.**

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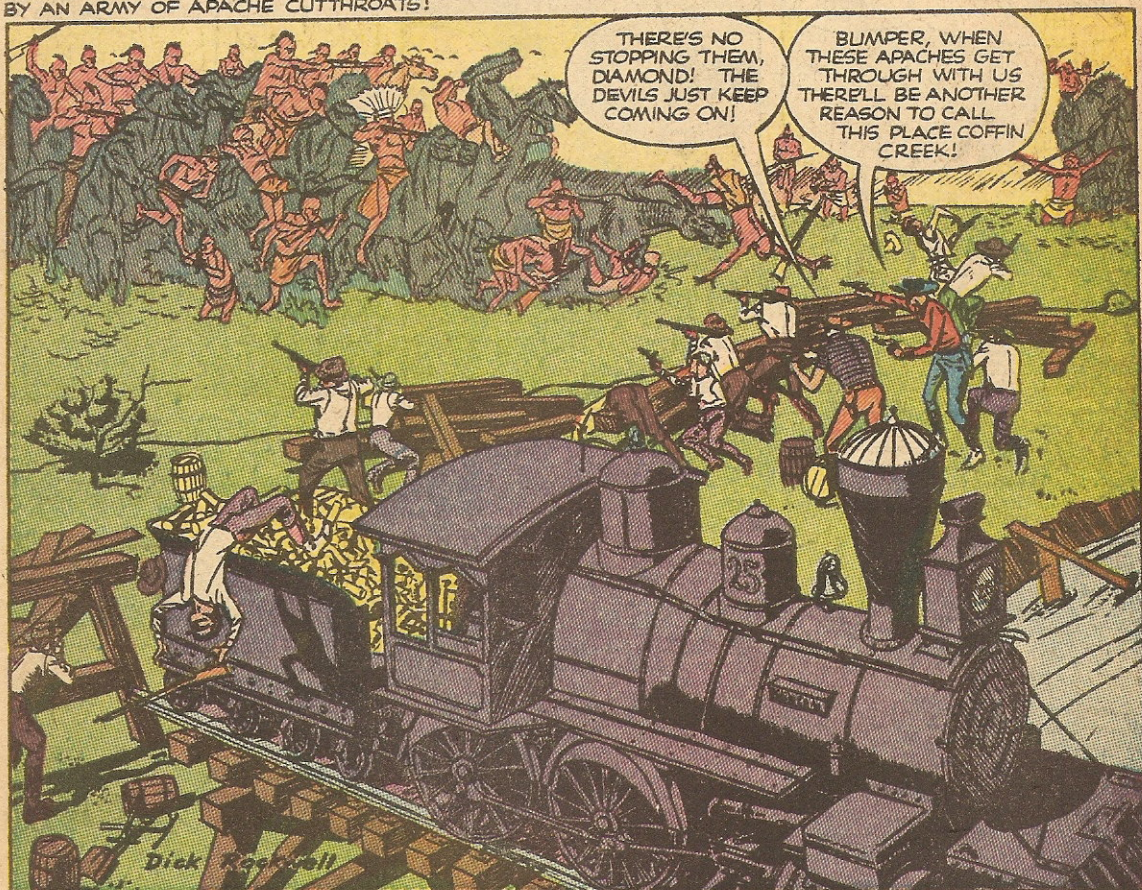
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BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

BLACK DIAMOND

in "THE SIEGE
OF COFFIN
ISLAND"

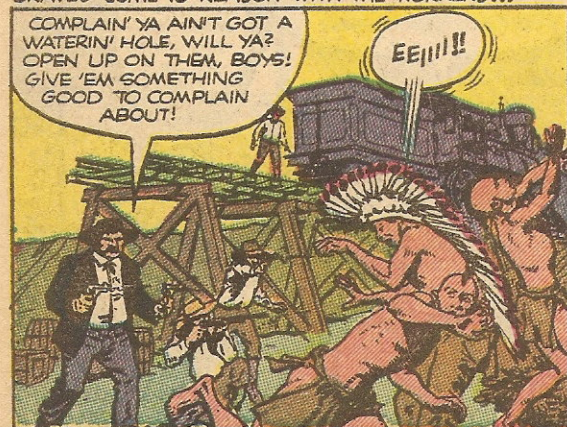
COFFIN ISLAND IS A SMALL RIVER ISLE LYING IN A SANDY BED 75 YARDS FROM EACH SHORE! THE RIVER HAS A COFFIN SHAPE! HENCE ITS NAME! DURING ONE OF THE MOST HORRIFYING SIEGES IN WESTERN HISTORY, THIS SANDY ISLAND THREATENED TO DO MORE THAN LIVE UP TO ITS NAME! IT PROMISED TO BECOME A BURIAL GROUND FOR A COURAGEOUS BAND OF FRONTIERSMEN WHO WERE OUTNUMBERED TWENTY TO ONE BY AN ARMY OF APACHE CUTTHROATS!



THERE'S NO STOPPING THEM, DIAMOND! THE DEVILS JUST KEEP COMING ON!

BUMPER, WHEN THESE APACHES GET THROUGH WITH US THERE'LL BE ANOTHER REASON TO CALL THIS PLACE COFFIN CREEK!

IT IS 1874...A RAILROAD IS BEING BUILT INTO APACHE TERRITORY AND A GANG OF GRADERS HAS JUMPED THE SPRING WATER BELONGING TO THE PEACEFUL TRIBE! A FEW FRIENDLY BRAVES COME TO REASON WITH THE WORKERS...



COMPLAIN' YA AIN'T GOT A WATERIN' HOLE, WILL YA? OPEN UP ON THEM, BOYS! GIVE 'EM SOMETHING GOOD TO COMPLAIN ABOUT!

EEJ!!!

THEY WON'T BOTHER US AGAIN, JORGAN!

I RECKON NOT! OKAY-GET BACK TO WORK! WE GOT A RAILROAD TO BUILD!



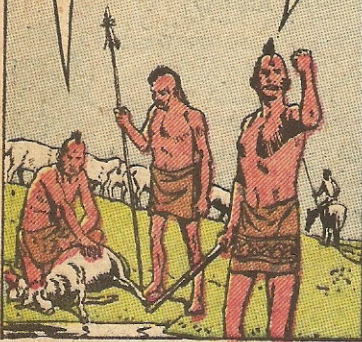
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BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

WEEKS PASSED! THE EFFECTS OF HAVING THEIR WATER SUPPLY CUT OFF BROUGHT TRAGEDY TO THE PEACEFUL INDIAN FARMERS!

OUR SHEEP DIE OF THIRST! THESE RAILROAD MEN HAVE NO PITY! THEY COULD HAVE BUILT THEIR TRACKS ACROSS DRY LAND!

... BUT THEY CARE NOT IF WE LIVE OR DIE! WE MUST ACT!



MY BROTHER, BROWN DOE, AND I WILL SPEAK TO THE PALEFACES! SURELY, THEY WILL LISTEN TO THE SONS OF CHIEF GREAT CROW!

THEY MAY, BIG BUFFALO, BUT THEY ANSWER ONLY WITH BULLETS! CHIEF ARIKAREE IS RIGHT! THE PALEFACE WANT WAR!



SILENCE! DO NOT MENTION ARIKAREE'S NAME! HE LIVES ONLY TO DESTROY AND MURDER!

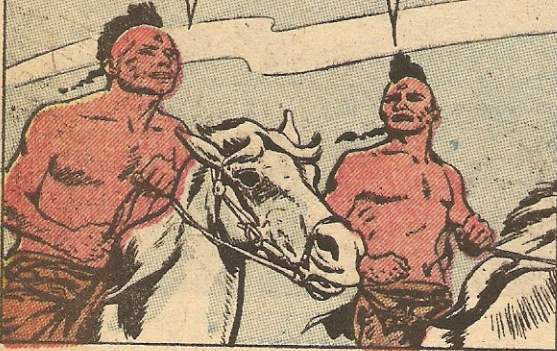
BUT ARIKAREE SPEAKS THE TRUTH! THE PALE-FACES WOULD STEAL THE VERY LAND FROM UNDER OUR FEET!

SPEAK NO MORE OF WAR TILL WE HAVE SPOKEN TO PALE-FACES!



ARIKAREE'S POISON HAS CREPT INTO OUR TRIBES-MEN'S VEINS, MY BROTHER! HIS VENOM INFLAMES PEACEFUL APACHES EVERY. TIME THE WHITES PROVOKE US!

THAT IS WHY THE PALE-FACE LEADER MUST UNDERSTAND THAT IG-NORING OUR PLEAS CAN ONLY LEAD TO BLOODSHED!



THAT NIGHT AT THE RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION CAMP..

TWO APACHES ARE COMIN' THIS WAY! THEY'RE CARRYIN' A WHITE FLAG, JORGAN!

THE SUCKERS! TIM! PETE! JOE... HIDE IN THAT TENT AN' HAVE YOUR RIFLES READY!



PALEFACE LEADER, WE ARE THE SONS OF CHIEF GREAT CROW! WE COME TO PLEAD FOR FAIRNESS! OUR PEOPLE GROW IMPATIENT!

UNLESS YOU PERMIT THE WATERS OF COFFIN CREEK TO FLOW THROUGH OUR TERRITORY, OUR PEOPLE WILL JOIN THE ARMY OF ARIKAREE, THE CUT-THROAT!

THREATENIN' US, EH? HEY, TIM! GIVE THE RED-SKINS OUR ANSWER!

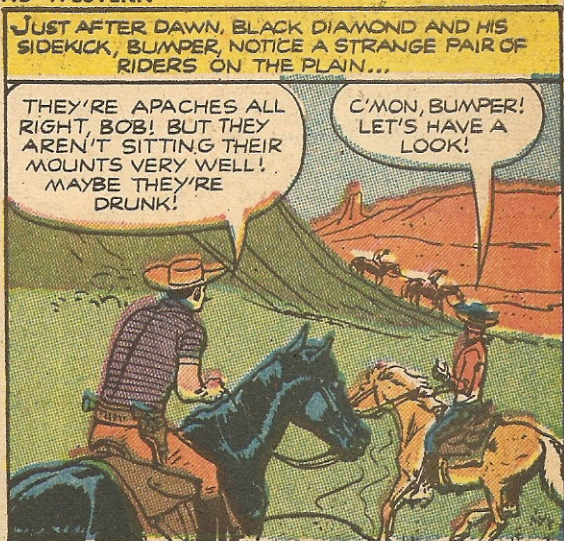


SURE! ONLY THEY AINT GOIN' TO REMEMBER IT!

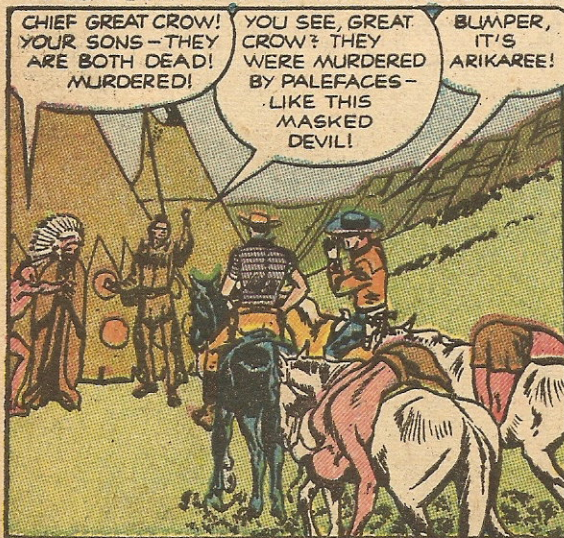
JORGAN'S MAKIN' A MISTAKE-KILLIN' THEM!



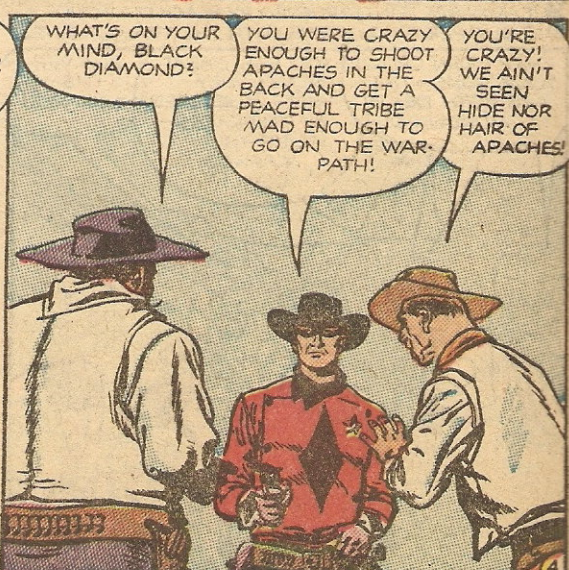
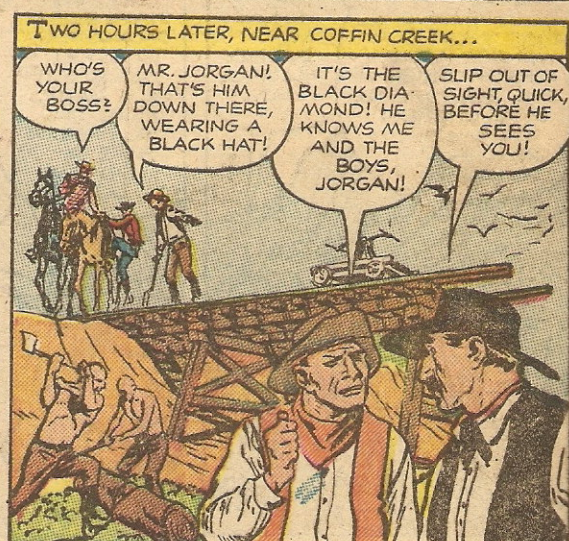
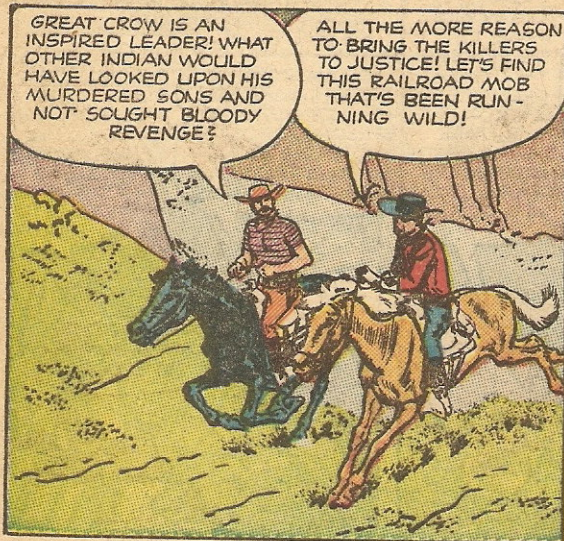
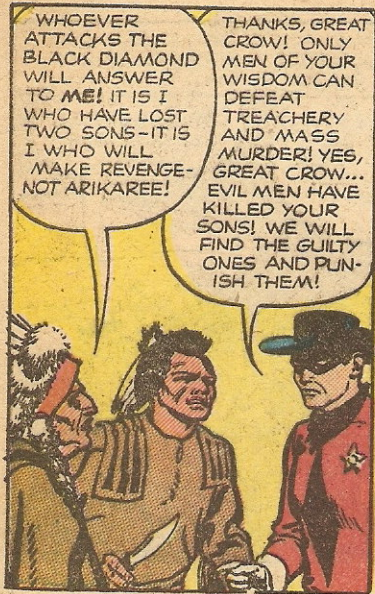
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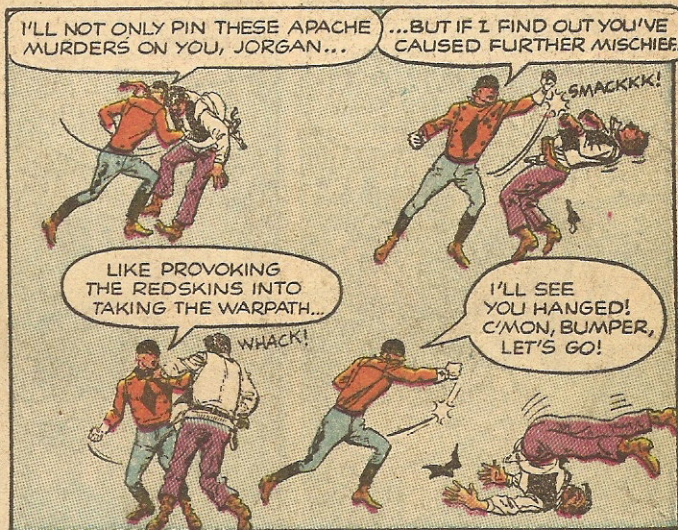
BUT ARIKAREE IS INTERRUPTED BY BLACK DIAMOND AND BUMPER WHO ARRIVE WITH THE TRAGIC NEWS...



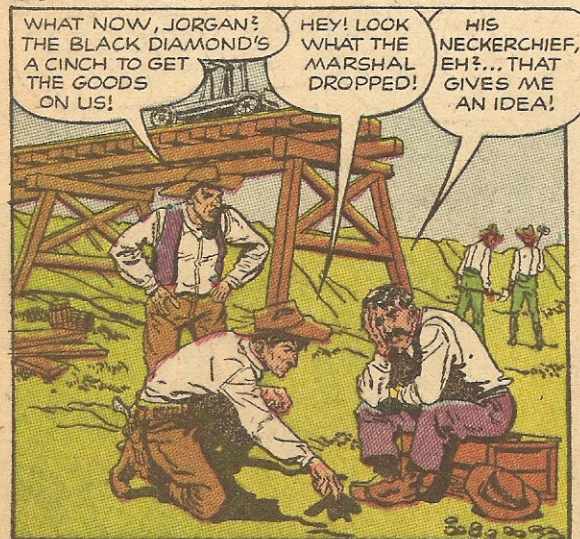
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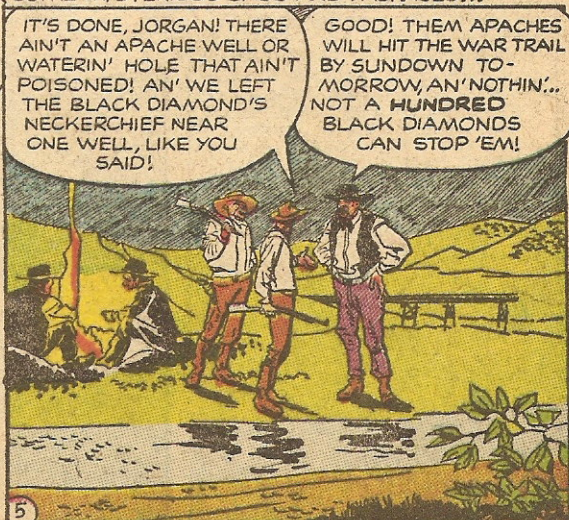
BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



MINUTES LATER...AS JORGAN'S MEN REVIVE HIM...



THAT NIGHT, AFTER JORGAN'S MEN DO A JOB WITH SOME MYSTERIOUS BAGS AND PACKAGES...

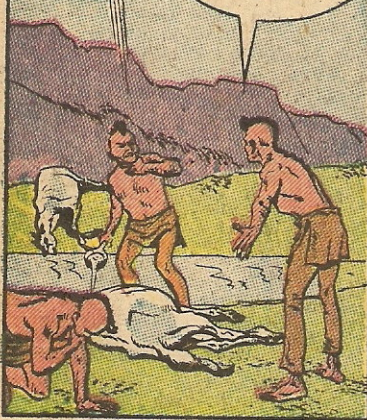


BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON...

P. POISONED...
GASP! THE
WELL... THE
W.. WATERING
HOLES... ALL
POIS...

IT IS THE SAME
EVERYWHERE!
MEN AND BEASTS
DYING! THE
PALEFACES HAVE
STRUCK AT
US AGAIN!



NEAR SUNDOWN...

THERE, TRUSTING
FOOL! LOOK AT THAT
NECKERCHIEF! EVEN
THE BLACK DIAMOND
JOINS THE CONSPIRACY
TO DESTROY US!
NOW WILL YOU SPEAK
OF PEACE WHILE
YOUR PEOPLE
PERISH BEFORE
YOUR EYES?

I HAVE SEEN
ENOUGH! LET
THE DRUMS OF
WAR SPEAK!
GREAT CROWS
TRIBE TAKES
THE WAR-
PATH!

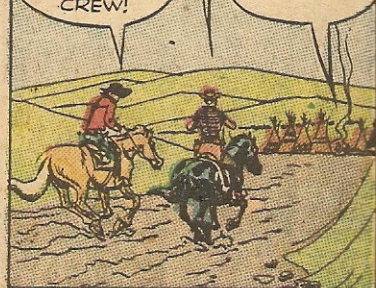


AT DAWN THE FOLLOWING DAY, AS
THE BLACK DIAMOND APPROACHES
GREAT CROWS CAMP...

NOW IF WE
CAN GET SOME
OF THE INDIANS
WHO SURVIVED
THAT SHOOTING
AT COFFIN
CREEK TO
TESTIFY
AGAINST JOR-
GAN, WE'LL NAIL
HIS WHOLE
MURDEROUS
CREW!

WAIT, DIAMOND!
SOMETHING
FUNNY'S GOING ON
THERE! LOOK!
WAR-PAINTED
BRAVES!

IT IS THE
BLACK
DIAMOND!
KILL THE
PRISONER!



IT LOOKS LIKE
JORGAN'S BEEN
BUSY FRAMING
YOU AND
WORKING UP
THE
APACHES!

HE SURE WORKED
THEM UP GOOD.
IF GREAT CROWS
BRAVES ARE
ATTACKING US!
LET'S FIND
JORGAN!

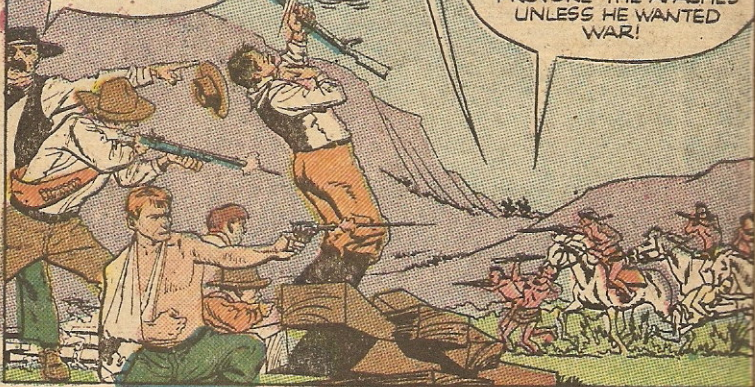


TWO HOURS LATER, NEAR COFFIN CREEK...

WOW! EVERY APACHE AND HIS BROTHER IS
HERE! THEY'LL WIPE OUT JORGAN'S GANG
TO THE LAST MAN!

WE'VE GOT THEM
ON THE RUN, MEN-
FOREWARD!

AAGHH!



THE GANG, YES! BUT
JORGAN, NO! SOMEHOW
JORGAN MUST BE IN
WITH ARIKAREE'S BUNCH!
NO RAILROAD BOSS IN
HIS RIGHT MIND
WOULD DELIBERATELY
PROVOKE THE APACHES
UNLESS HE WANTED
WAR!

YOU WERE
RIGHT, DIAMOND!
JORGAN IS
LEADING HIS
MEN RIGHT INTO
AN APACHE
TRAP! THE
ENTIRE INJUN
FORCE IS
WAITING BEYOND THAT
HILL!

THIS PROVES
JORGAN IS A
RENEGADE!
ANY DUMMY
WOULD SEE
THAT THE
NATURAL MOVE
IS TO RETREAT
TO COFFIN
ISLAND AND
HOLD OUT
THERE! C'MON,
BUMPER!



JORGAN'S
HEADED STRAIGHT.
FOR THE APACHES!
HE'S A RENEGADE,
ALL RIGHT!

RETREAT, YOU FOOLS!
JORGAN'S A TRAITOR!
HE'S LEADING YOU
INTO A MASSACRE
TRAP! BACK TO
COFFIN ISLAND!

WE
BELIEVE
YOU
MARSHAL!

COME, MEN!
FOLLOW BLACK
DIAMOND! GET
BACK TO THE
ISLAND!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

MINUTES LATER, AS THE FLEEING RAILROAD CREW CROSSES THE SHALLOW CREEK...

WE'RE LUCKY THIS IS LATE SUMMER WHEN THE RIVER BED IS DRIED OUT INSTEAD OF SPRING WHEN IT'S A TORRENT THAT COVERS THE ISLAND!

WE'RE NO BETTER OFF WITH THIS PACK OF APACHES COMING AT US! START PRAYING, MEN! WE NEED MORE THAN BULLETS NOW! THEY'RE CHARGING!



THE BRAVE, DESPERATE MEN FIRE VOLLEY AFTER VOLLEY INTO THE HOWLING BANKS OF THE ONCOMING SAVAGES...

UNGH!!

KEEP UP THE FIRE—IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

EET!!!

I GOT ANOTHER ONE, DIAMOND!



SUDDENLY, AS SCREAMS OF RAGE LEAP FROM A HUNDRED THROATS THE APACHES BREAK AND RUN!

WE DID IT, DIAMOND! THEY'RE RETREATING!

NOT BY A LONG SHOT, BUMPER! THEY'RE JUST GIVING UP DIRECT ASSAULT!



I'LL BET THEY'LL TRY TO STARVE US OUT! THERE'S NO FOOD ON THIS ISLAND! THE WATER WILL POISON US! WE CAN'T LAST MORE THAN A FEW DAYS! THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY OUT... BUT WE MUST WAIT FOR THAT!



NIGHT COMES, AND THE BESIEGED RAILROAD MEN FIRE FLAMING ARROWS FROM MAKESHIFT BOWS...

THIS SHOULD START A PRAIRIE FIRE! THAT'LL KEEP THE INDIANS BUSY WHILE WE STEAL THE LOCOMOTIVE AND TENDER—IF THE REDSKINS HAVEN'T DISMANTLED THEM BY NOW!



AS THE APACHES TRY TO PUT OUT THE FIRE WITH WATER DRAWN FROM THE CREEK...

THERE'S THE LOCOMOTIVE—AND IT'S ALL SET TO GO! C'MON, BUMPER! WE'LL TAKE IT TO FORT LEANDER FOR REINFORCEMENTS!

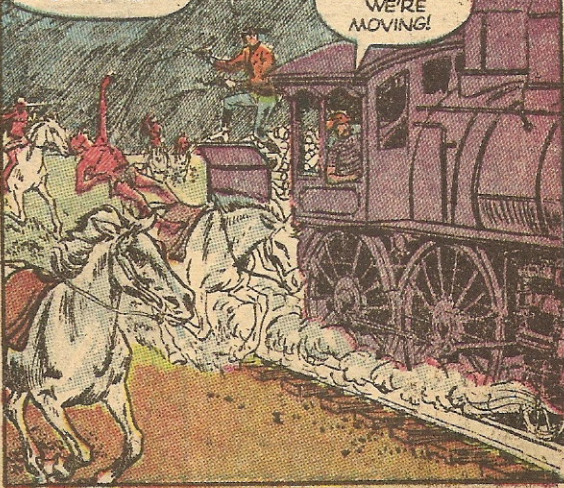
LET 'EM TRY AND STOP US!



BUT NOT ALL THE APACHES WERE STOPPED BY THE FIRE...

QUICK, BUMPER! I CAN'T KEEP 'EM AWAY MUCH LONGER!

HANG ON! WE'RE MOVING!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

HOURS LATER, SHORTLY BEFORE DAWN, BLACK DIAMOND AND BUMPER HAD COMPLETED THEIR MISSION AND WERE HEADED BACK...

WE'RE GOING TO MAKE IT, DIAMOND! APACHES NEVER ATTACK TILL DAYLIGHT!

YOU'RE WRONG, BUMPER! THEY'RE GOING TO ATTACK NOW! LOOK AT THE RAILROAD TRACKS! THEY'RE ALL RIPPED UP!



WE'LL STOP IN TIME, BLACK DIAMOND! BUT IF THE APACHES ATTACK US WHILE WE'RE STANDING STILL...

THEY'LL GET THE SURPRISE OF THEIR MURDEROUS LIVES!



HERE THEY COME...AND LOOK! IT'S JORGAN WITH CHIEF ARIKAREE!

GET THE DOORS OF THOSE FREIGHT CARS OPEN, BUMPER!

WE'VE GOT 'EM, CHIEF! WE'LL SMOKE 'EM OUT WITH FIRE ARROWS AND THEN RIP THEM TO PIECES!

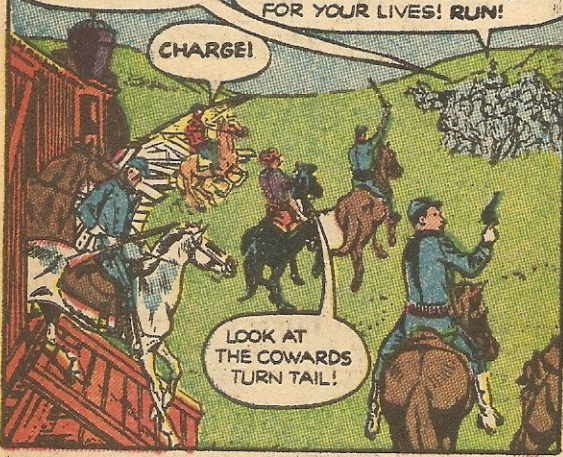


JORGAN, YOU FOOL! THEY HAVE TRICKED US!

I...I DIDN'T EXPECT THEM TO BRING IN MOUNTED MEN! WE'RE NO MATCH FOR THEM! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! RUN!

CHARGE!

LOOK AT THE COWARDS TURN TAIL!



YOU BUNGLER, JORGAN! YOU SHALL NOT ESCAPE YOUR FATE!

NO, ARIKAREE! EEEAAA!



BUT ARIKAREE'S FATE WAS PRO-
NOUNCED JUST AS SWIFTLY BY
BLACK DIAMOND...

NEITHER SHALL YOU, ARIKAREE! I'M TAKING YOU BACK TO HANG!

N...NEVER! EEOIIII!



GASP...IF I CANNOT KILL YOU... I CAN KILL MYSELF! I SHALL NOT SUFFER THE DISGRACE OF CAPTURE! EEEAAA!



THAT AFTERNOON, ON COFFIN ISLAND...

THE RAILS SHALL REMAIN TORN UP, CHIEF GREAT CROW! THE RAILROAD IS BUILDING ALONG ANOTHER ROUTE-ONE WHICH WON'T INTERFERE WITH YOUR PEOPLE!

THIS IS MORE JUSTICE THAN I DESERVE, HONORED PALEFACE!

NO, GREAT CROW! YOU WERE CONFUSED AND TRICKED BY EVIL MEN! LET COFFIN ISLAND BE THE SYMBOL OF THE FUTILITY OF TERRORISM AND BANDITRY ON A WISE AND PEACEFUL PEOPLE!



THE END

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KEY CHAIN
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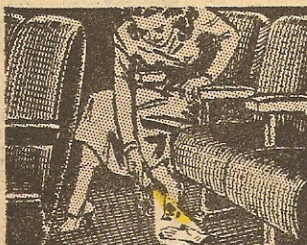
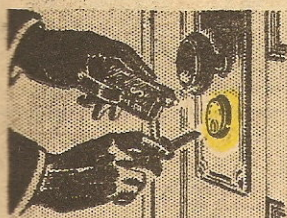
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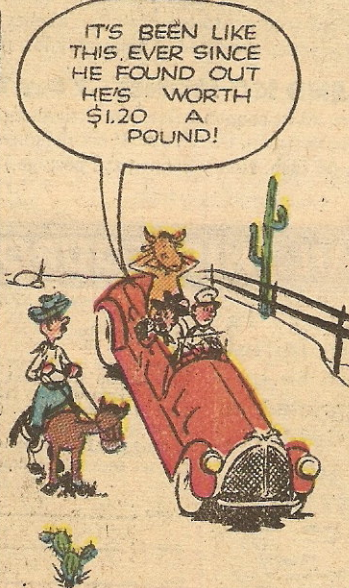
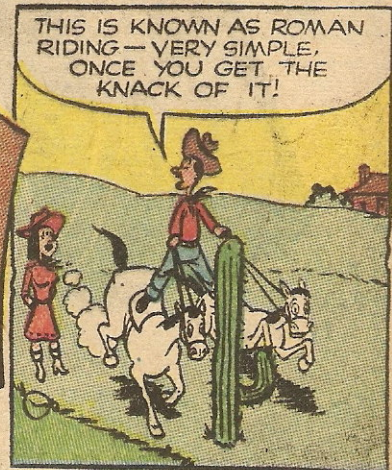
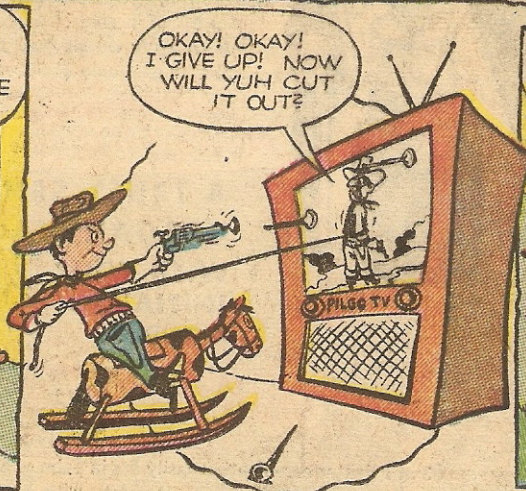
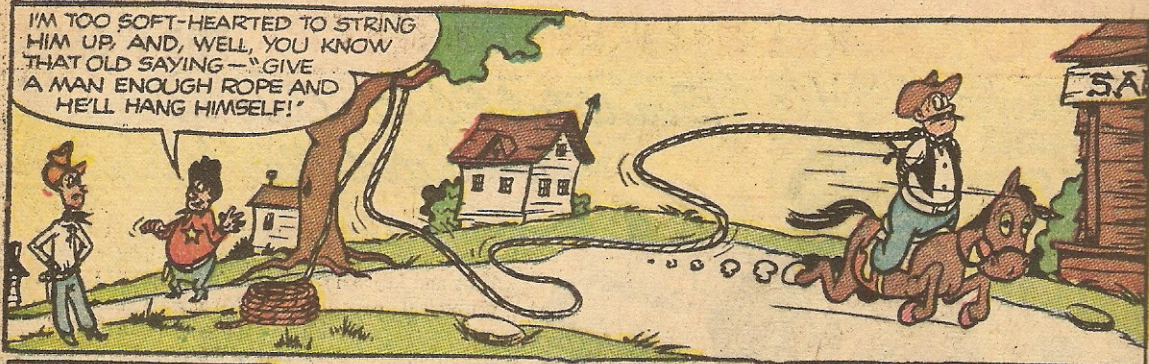
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HORSE LAUGH



BLACK DIAMOND

in "COMANCHE CEMETERY"

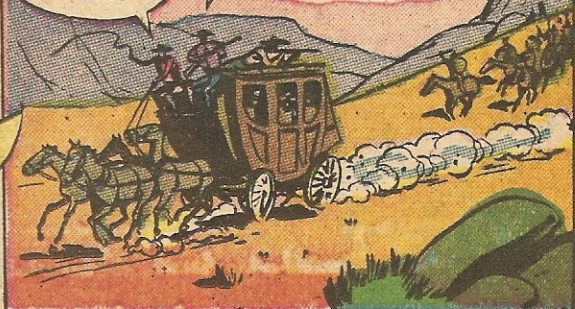


IT TOOK COURAGE FOR THE PIONEERS TO PUSH WESTWARD EVEN DURING COMPARABLY PEACEFUL TIMES! THE STRUGGLE AGAINST BRUTALITY OF NATURE AND FEAR OF INDIAN ATTACKS WAS A TALL ORDER FOR ANY SETTLER! BUT WHEN THE VICIOUS COMANCHES TURNED THE SILVER VALLEY WAGON ROUTE INTO A CEMETERY FOR SETTLERS, IT TOOK EXTRAORDINARY COURAGE TO ENTER THIS VALLEY OF DEATH, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE ONLY ESCORTS FOR THE WAGON TRAIN WERE THE BLACK DIAMOND AND HIS FRIEND, BUMPER...

IT IS THE LATE SUMMER OF 1812! THE STAGE FROM SILVER VALLEY IS TRYING DESPERATELY TO RUN THE GANT-LET AGAINST A PACK OF COMANCHES WHO ARE SCALP HUNTING...

THERE THEY COME! WE WERE LOCO TO THINK WE COULD SNEAK THROUGH!

WE HAD TO! THERE'S A DYIN' WOMAN INSIDE WHO NEEDS AN OPERATION AN' WE GOT \$60,000 IN GOLD BULLION THAT'S LONG OVERDUE AT THE REX HILL BANK!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



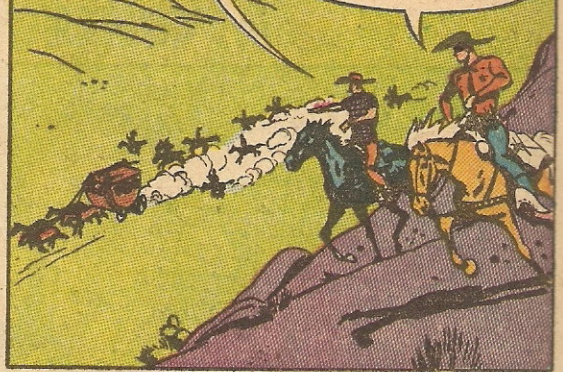
SURE! BUT IT AIN'T MY WIFE AN' IT AIN'T MY BULLION! WHAT'LL I GET OUT OF IT? AN ARROW THROUGH MY HEART!

OKAY, FOLKS! BRACE YOURSELVES AN' START PRAYIN'! THE ONLY THING THAT'LL SAVE US NOW IS A MIRACLE!

AG IF IN RESPONSE TO THE DRIVER'S GRIM PRAYERS TWO FIGURES APPEAR ON A RIDGE OVERLOOKING SILVER VALLEY...

THERE'S THE COMANCHE BAND WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR, DIAMOND! THEY'RE ATTACKING THE STAGECOACH!

WE CAME TO TRY AND REASON WITH THOSE INDIANS, BUMPER, BUT GUNS ARE THE ONLY THING THEY'LL LISTEN TO NOW! LET'S GO!



FASTER, BUMPER, OR THERE WON'T BE ANYONE LEFT TO RESCUE!

GLORY BE! IT'S THE BLACK DIAMOND! OR AM I SEEING THINGS!

YOU'RE SEEIN' A MIRACLE! LOOK AT THOSE COMANCHES FALL! IT'S BLACK DIAMOND ALL RIGHT!

AHHH!

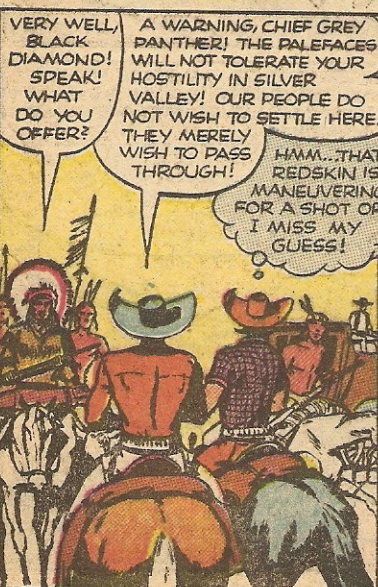
BUT AS MORE COMANCHES BITE THE DUST...

HOLD YOUR FIRE, BUMPER! MAYBE THEIR CHIEF WILL REASON WITH US NOW!

WE TALK PEACE, BLACK DIAMOND!

GREY PANTHER! A TRUCE! I WOULD SPEAK WITH YOU!

GO SPEAK WITH HIM, GREY PANTHER! TAKE THE BLACK DIAMOND OFF HIS GUARD THEN WHEN HE LEAST EXPECTS IT—I KILL HIM!



VERY WELL, BLACK DIAMOND! SPEAK! WHAT DO YOU OFFER?

A WARNING, CHIEF GREY PANTHER! THE PALEFACES WILL NOT TOLERATE YOUR HOSTILITY IN SILVER VALLEY! OUR PEOPLE DO NOT WISH TO SETTLE HERE! THEY MERELY WISH TO PASS THROUGH!

HMM...THAT REDSKIN IS MANEUVERING FOR A SHOT OR I MISS MY GUESS!

YOU WILL ONLY BRING THE WRATH OF THE GREAT WHITE FATHER UPON YOU! HE WILL SEND HIS SOLDIERS! THE COMANCHES WILL REACH THE HAPPY HUNTING GROUNDS SOONER THAN THEY THINK!

HE'S SNEAKING UP BEHIND US!

GREY PANTHER ASKS TRIBUTE FROM ALL WHO CROSS HIS TERRITORY, BUT THE PALEFACES IGNORE ME! GREY PANTHER BECOMES ANGRY!

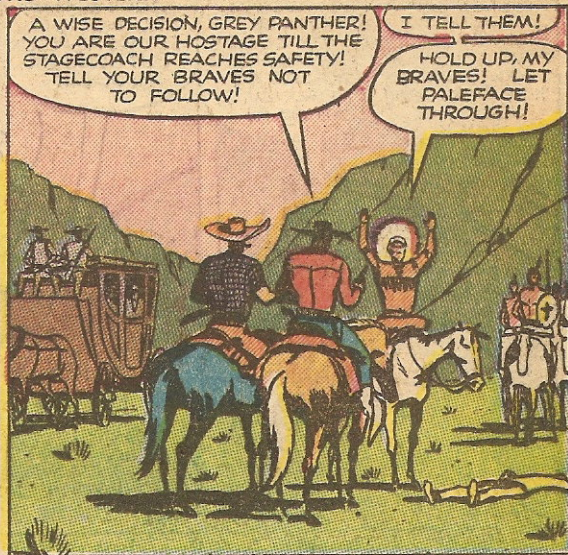
YOU'RE ANGRY? NATURALLY! YOU ACT LIKE A BANDIT! THE VALLEY IS OPEN TO ALL, GREY PANTHER! NO BANDIT OR INDIAN OR PALEFACE MAY CONTROL IT FOR PROFIT!

SO NOW YOU CALL US BANDITS? IS THIS THE WAY TO WIN ME WITH ARGUMENT?

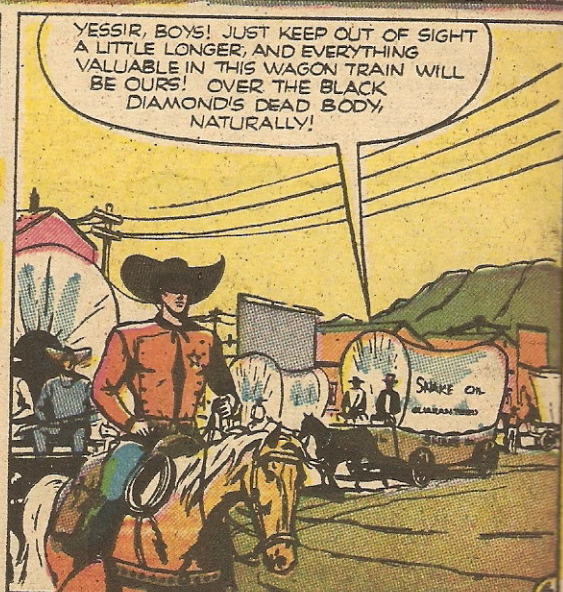
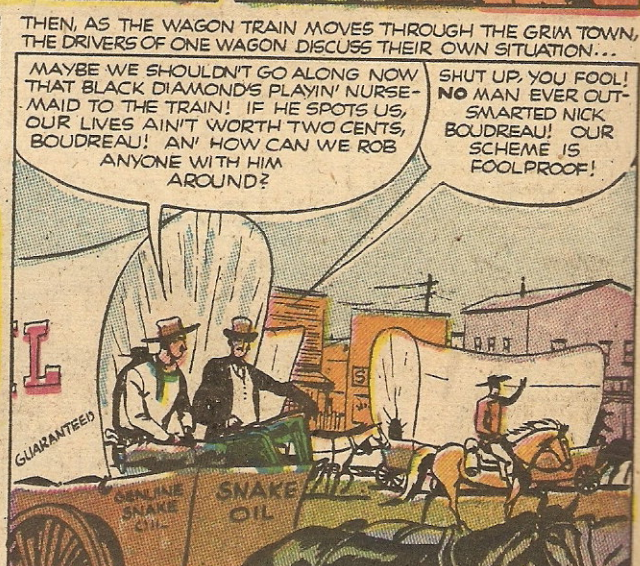
THE ARGUMENT IS OVER! THE BLACK DIAMOND DIES!

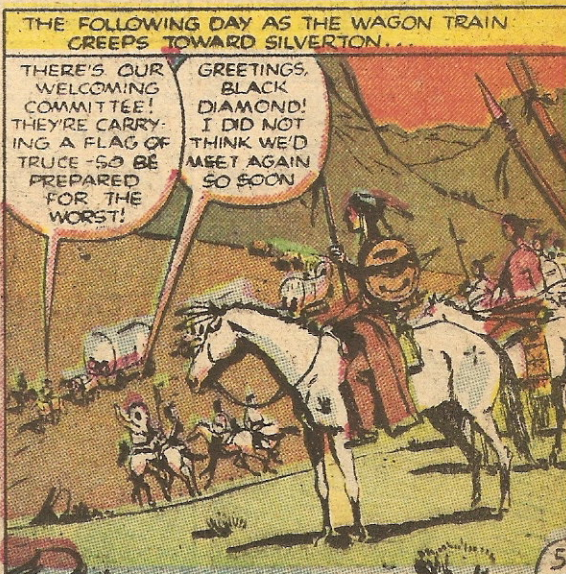
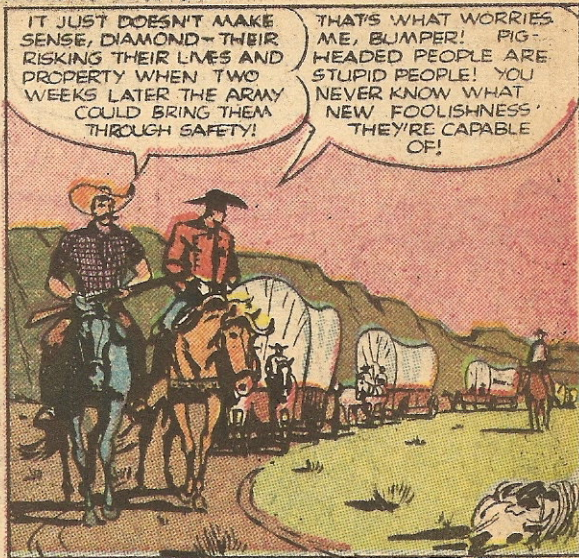


BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

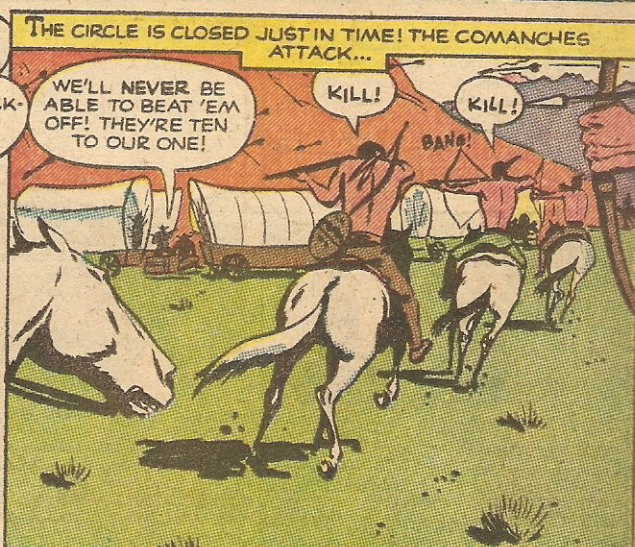


BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN





BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



AND AS THE FLAMING ARROWS DO THEIR WORK...



BUT AS BUMPER ORGANIZES A FIRE BRACKET BRIGADE...



MINUTES LATER, DURING A LULL IN THE FIGHTING...



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

YOU'RE OUR GUIDE, NOT OUR GENERAL! IT'S OUR LIVES AN' OUR FORTUNES! THOSE WHO WANT TO STAY CAN STAY AN' THOSE WHO WANT TO GO BACK WILL RETURN!

STUBBORN FOOLS!

THAT'S NOT TH' HALF OF IT! THERE ARE SNAKES INSTEAD OF SNAKE OIL IN BOUDREAU'S WAGON, BOB!



AND AS BUMPER TELLS BLACK DIAMOND WHAT AN INDIAN FIRE-ARROW SMOKED OUT...

I NEVER LIKED THE SMELL OF THAT SKUNK AND NOW I KNOW WHY! BOUDREAU'S OUT TO HOLD UP THE WAGON TRAIN!

WE'LL HAVE TO TACKLE HIM LATER! HERE COMES ANOTHER COMANCHE DEATH CHARGE! WE'VE GOT TO BEAT 'EM OFF BLACK DIAMOND-OR WE'LL ALL BE FEEDING WORMS!



AT THE SAME TIME, NEAR THE SNAKE OIL WAGON...

NOW THAT THE CAT'S OUT OF THE BAG, WE'VE GOT TO WORK FAST! SCARE THOSE SETTLERS! THE ONES WITH THE MOST TO LOSE WILL BACK OUT-AND WE'LL GO WITH HIM!

IT'S A CINCH! THEM TENDERFEET ARE SCARED TO DEATH ALL READY! LET'S GOT TO WORK ON THEM!



IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO PUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON THE ALREADY TERRIFIED SETTLERS! BOUDREAU'S PLAN WAS WORKING LIKE A CHARM...

LOOK, BOUDREAU! THE SETTLERS ARE RUNNING LIKE SCARED MICE! AND THE FOOLS THINK THEY'RE SAVIN' THEIR MONEY AN' THEIR LIVES!

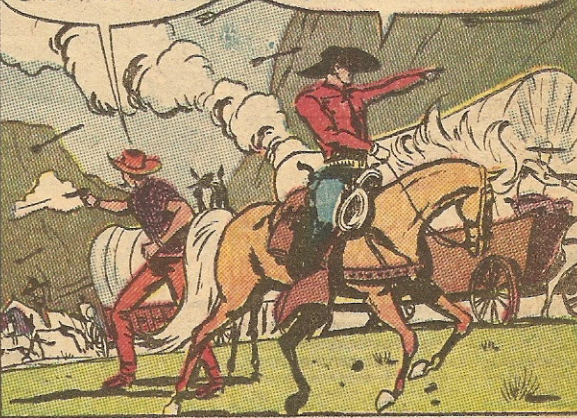
THEY'RE JUST SAVING GREY PANTHER A LOT OF TROUBLE! NOW IT'LL BE A CINCH FOR HIM TO WIPE OUT THE OTHER SETTLERS! IF NECESSARY WE'LL SPLIT WITH THE GREEDY REDSKIN!



BOUDREAU WAS RIGHT! THE WAGON TRAIN HAD SUFFERED A TRAGIC LOSS...

THE STUPID, COWARDLY RATS! THEY'VE DESERTED US! NOW THE COMANCHE CAN KNOCK US OFF ONE AT A TIME!

NOT YET! IF WE CAN GET THESE WAGONS TO HIGHER GROUND WE MIGHT STAND THE INDIANS OFF! C'MON, MEN! DRIVE THOSE HORSES! THIS IS A RACE FOR LIFE!



SHORTLY AFTER IN THE VALLEY BELOW...

SO! THERE WAS A TRAITOR IN THE WAGON TRAIN! I AM GRATEFUL! SPLITTING TRAIN INTO TWO SMALL PIECES ALLOWS GREY PANTHER TO DEVOUR ONE AT A TIME!

I'VE DONE MORE THAN THAT, CHIEF! THESE WAGONS CONTAIN MOST OF THE VALUABLES IN THE TRAIN! WE'LL SPLIT THE STUFF WITH YOU AND HAND OVER THE SETTLERS AS HOSTAGES IN EXCHANGE FOR OUR OWN FREEDOM!

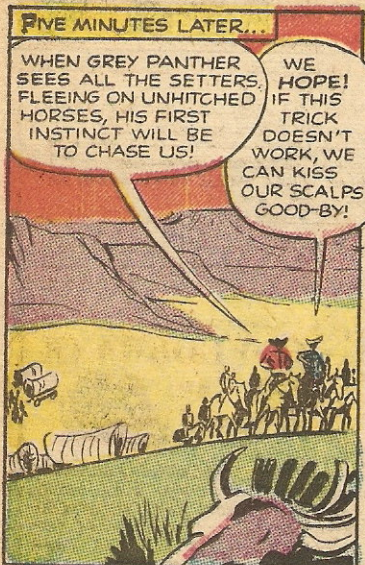
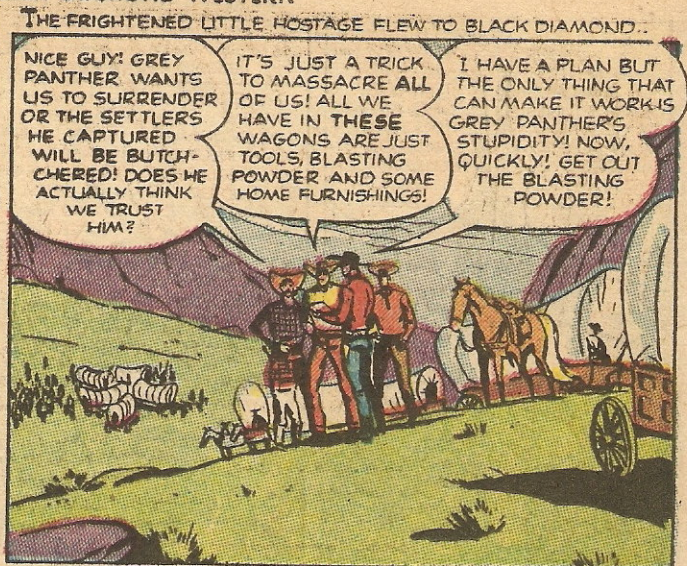


A GENEROUS BARGAIN, MY FRIEND! ONLY I MAKE YOU A COUNTER OFFER! I WILL TAKE EVERYTHING AND GIVE YOU NOTHING! HOW IS THAT FOR SHREWD BUSINESS?

YOU COMANCHE DEVIL! YOU TRIC...!!IIIEE!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



MINUTES LATER, AS THE FEW COMANCHE SURVIVORS FLEE TO THE HILLS...



WALKIE TALKIES

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☐ Send complete Walkie Talkies plus adapter and aerial ————— Price \$4.98

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City _____ State _____

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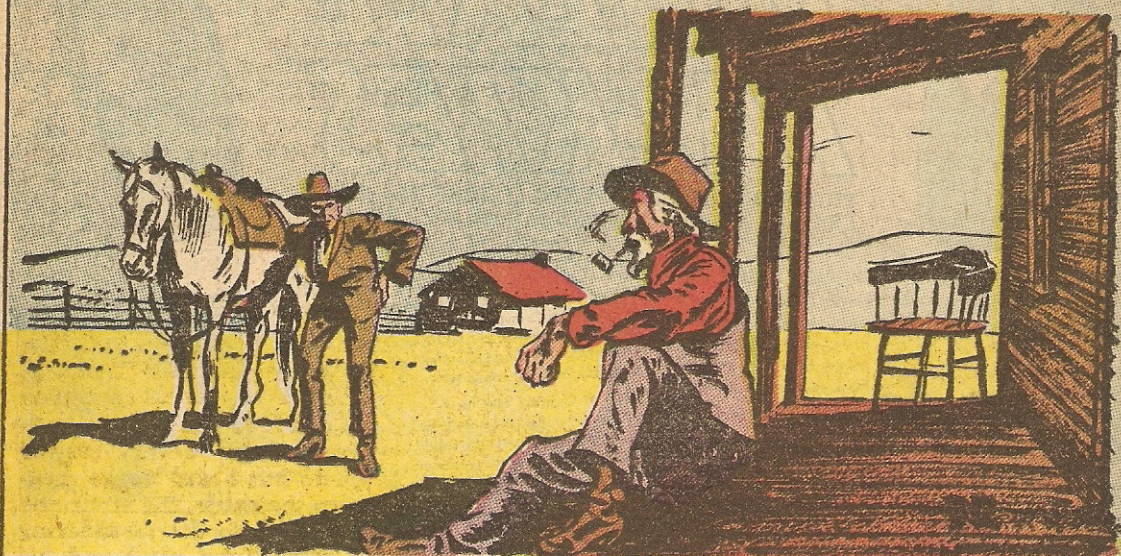
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The Mysterious Santo



TONY McKAY, fresh from the eastern seaboard, didn't know a ranch from a truck garden, a brood mare from a stallion or an Angus from a Holstein. Undaunted, aside from acute soreness from the long ride, he loped along the rutted road with a feeling of pride. His recent inheritance had put him on top of the world and the proposed acquisition of the Buck Horn ranch would be another feather in his cap. The Buck Horn ranch, Tony had heard from reliable sources, was the best buy in the county. The only reason Condon was selling was that he was old and didn't want the responsibility any longer. Before long, Tony thought, Tony McKay would be the richest man in this section of the west.

Tony had heard that there was one provision, one hitch, to the sale of the ranch; Santo was to remain on the place. Now, Tony had heard about Santo but he never could get any information as to who or what he was. Tony had finally concluded that this was nothing to worry about as Santo was probably a horse, some kind of a pet, a dog, maybe. Of course, Condon would wish any such animal to continue to have a home.

Tony rode on and on. As the miles fell behind he got stiffer and more uncomfortable. Finally in the dim distance over the range he spotted the ranch buildings.

Reaching his destination, the saddle having rubbed his legs raw, he stumbled off his horse and almost collapsed — his knees wouldn't hold him. Concentrating so hard on trying to get off the horse, then trying to get to the ranch house, Tony had scarcely been able to notice his surroundings. As

Tony fell off his horse, he heard a quiet voice remark, "Ever been on a horse before, Sonny?"

Infuriated, Tony looked up and saw, seated on the steps of the porch, the most disreputable looking character he'd ever seen. He was an old man with a swarthy wrinkled face from which his eyes seemed scarcely able to peer between the wrinkles. His hair was white, or would have been if it had been clean, and it looked as though it hadn't been cut for the past five years. The old gent was dressed in what once must have been buckskin but it was shiny with wear, age and an accumulation of dirt.

Tony gathered himself together, brushed himself off, ignored the remark and stumbled to the front door.

"Bad day. Storm's brewin'," quietly said the old man.

Again Tony ignored him, but curiosity led him to gaze at the cloudless blue sky and wonder why he would say such a thing. Then Tony finally spoke to the old man. "Is Mr. Condon here?"

"At the corral," indicated the old man.

Tony went around the house and back to the corral where he found Mr. Condon sitting on the rail. "Good morning, sir," greeted Tony.

"Well, Mr. McKay. You're here in good time to have a ride around the ranch before dinner," answered Mr. Condon cheerily.

Tony groaned at the prospect of mounting a horse again, "Er - ah - yes, sir. I guess you're right."

"Better saddle up a couple of my horses, yours must be tired after the trip out,"

cheerfully continued Mr. Condon while Tony wished he'd think less of the poor horses and more about poor Tony.

Tony somehow successfully mounted his horse and managed to stay astride as the two rode over parts of the vast area of the ranch. Mr. Condon talked continuously of the merits of the place and Tony could see that he was getting a good buy. "Best wheat land this side of the mountains," Mr. Condon said. "Get two crops a year. Mighty good grazing over here — fattest herd in the county."

Storm clouds began to gather as they rode back to the ranch house. Tony was now convinced that this was the place for him and he was anxious to close the deal. "Tell me, Mr. Condon, what is this provision about Santo?" he queried.

"I just want to be sure Santo has a home for the rest of his life," answered Mr. Condon casually.

"But, who is Santo?" asked Tony.

"Oh, I thought you knew," said Mr. Condon. "You must have met Santo!"

"Don't know that I have," answered Tony.

"Well, if you haven't, you must," continued Mr. Condon. "He's the old man . . ."

"WHAT?" interrupted Tony. "You mean that old man out in front?"

"Yes," answered Mr. Condon in surprise.

The conversation was interrupted by a sudden cloudburst. Rain fell in sheets and the two galloped back to the ranch. Soaked to the skin, they entered the house for dinner.

All the hands were present for the mid-day dinner, including Santo, unwashed and silent. Tony watched in disgust as Santo ate his dinner with relish and without much assistance from knife and fork. As Tony watched he thought he would not have such a person on the ranch. Even if the provision was in the sale, he just would not have it. Santo apparently did nothing but slouch on the porch, come in for meals and make a pig of himself. Then he would make himself perfectly at home, as he was doing now, shoes off, warming his feet in front of the fire. He didn't speak except on occasion when he muttered something which, Tony noticed, Condon seemed never to miss. Tony made little sense out of his monosyllabic mutterings; "Hole in the fence." then, "River's runnin' high."

Tony controlled himself in front of Condon figuring it was better to say no more about Santo until the deal was closed. Tony knew that after the ranch was his he could do very much as he pleased.

The storm over, Tony started the ride back to town. As he rode along the vast stretches of the Buck Horn ranch he looked

at it with pride. He waved cheerfully at one of the ranch hands who was putting a new post in the fence, the other had apparently been struck by lightning. Fording the river was the only hazardous event on his trip to town. The muddy little creek had risen to monstrous proportions.

As owner of the Buck Horn ranch Tony's first project, if he must keep Santo, was to try to clean him up. The only response he got was slight muttering from Santo, "Been there so long, might get cold. Be lost without it."

Infuriated at this insubordination Tony was determined to put Santo to work. "I'm too old to work," Santo said with finality as he returned to the porch. He still continued to eat a lion's share of food and kept on muttering incoherently. Tony never listened consciously to Santo but heard vague mention of the weather, the cattle, the crops and the land. Chalking it up to the meandering mind of an old man, Tony continued his ranching career.

One day one of the hands spoke confidentially to Tony and said, "Mr. McKay, Santo knows everything, somehow. Maybe you oughtta listen to him. Mr. Condon always did."

Tony laughed it off but then, strangely, that night he remembered his first day at the ranch. Santo had said, "storm's brewin'" and it had poured! And he'd mentioned something about a hole in the fence. Tony remembered seeing the rancher mending the fence. Later he'd said something about the river running high and Tony remembered the difficulty he'd had fording the river.

The next day, much against his will, Tony paid heed to Santo's mutterings. "Blight in the far field," muttered Santo as he removed his shoes. Wanting to discount this information, Tony rode to the far field. The blight had started! Calling it to the attention of the hands, it was stopped before it ravaged the crop.

Tony began to look at Santo with a different point of view. Still not willing to give in, Tony, quietly and under cover, followed Santo's indications. Santo proved 100% right! Santo seemed to know instinctively the condition of the cattle, the range, the fields, the fences, the weather.

Finally conceding the point and with a quick about-face, Tony grasped Santo by the hand and said, "I guess I'm just a greenhorn, Santo, and it takes a long time to learn."

"Knew you'd come around, Sonny," muttered Santo.

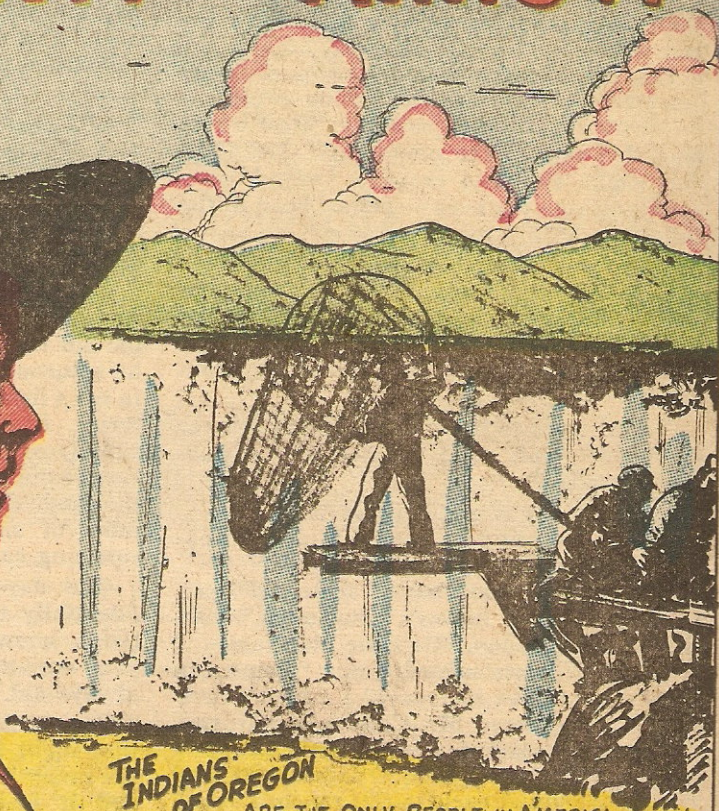
THE END

STRAIGHT ^{as} ^{an} ARROW



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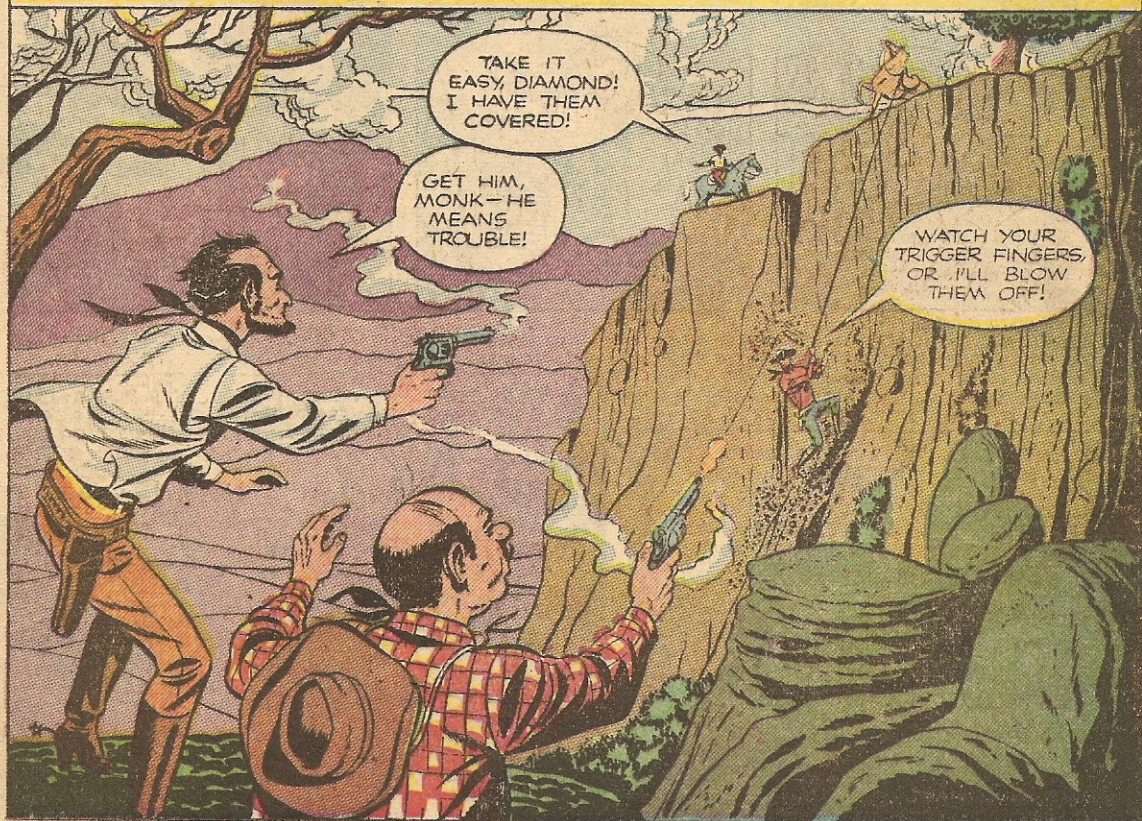
BRYSON STAMP CO., Drawer F-1, Rossford, Ohio

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

BLACK DIAMOND

in "THE SAVAGE
SIOUX MULE
TRAIN AMBUSH"

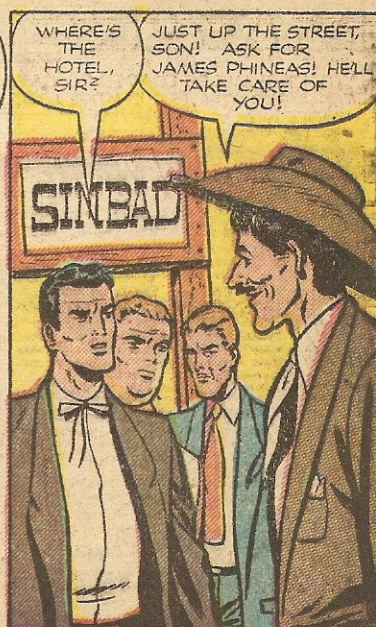
THE TRAIL FROM SINBAD TO THE MAXWELL CLAIM WAS TREACHEROUS! HIGH CLIFFS, ROCKY LEDGES AND MOUNTAIN STREAMS SWOLLEN BY SLEETING SNOWS MADE THE TRIP HAZARDOUS! TOM MORGAN'S MEN, DRIVING A MULE TRAIN LOADED WITH GOLD, UNDERTOOK THE TRIP NOT KNOWING WHAT UNTOLD, UNFORESEEN AND UNSUSPECTED DANGER AWAITED...



ORPHANED AS A BOY, AND GRATEFUL TO RONALD MAXWELL, HIS BENEFACTOR, TOM MORGAN WITH HIS PAL, JACK WARREN AND BILL BARBER GO WEST TO ATTEMPT TO HAUL OUT THE GOLD FROM THE MAXWELL LODGE...



LATER...



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

JAMES PHINEAS, THE OWNER OF SINBAD HOTEL, WAS MORE THAN HELPFUL! HE LODGED THE STRANGERS, ADVISED THEM AND HELPED THEM TO ROUND UP MULES, SUPPLIES AND EXTRA MEN!



YOU'RE A REAL ARTIST WITH THAT KNIFE, PHINEAS!

I JUST WHITTLE THE HOURS AWAY! KEEPS ME OUT OF THE SALOONS AND OUT OF TROUBLE!

THE NEXT MORNING...

WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH, PHINEAS, THANKS TO YOUR HELP... WE'LL BE SHOVING OFF RIGHT AWAY! I GUESS WE'LL BE GONE A FEW MONTHS!

I HOPE FIFTEEN MULES AND MY THREE MEN WILL DO THE TRICK! ACE CONNOR AND ROCKY ARE GOOD DRIVERS! GOOD LUCK!



THE HAZARDOUS TRIP TO THE MAXWELL CLAIM WAS MADE IN A WEEK! THE SURVEYOR'S MAP PROVED ACCURATE!

THIS IS THE PLACE! LET'S HOPE THE GOLD IS HERE...

... AND IF IT'S NEAR THE SURFACE, LIKE THE SURVEYOR SAID, IT SHOULD BE EASY TO FIND! WE'LL GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP AND START LOOKING FIRST THING IN THE MORNING!



THEY FOUND THE LODGE, WHICH CONTAINED MORE THAN THEY ANTICIPATED! AND THREE MONTHS LATER, TOM AND HIS FRIENDS HAD DEVELOPED AND WORKED IT, AND WERE READY TO HAUL IT OUT!



WE'LL NEED FIVE MORE MULES TO PACK THIS ORE UNLESS WE MAKE TWO TRIPS!

I'LL GO BACK TO SINBAD AND GET THEM... WITH ALL THIS GOLD, OUR CREDIT WILL BE GOOD AND TRAVELING ALONE I SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE IT IN A WEEK!

I HATE TO SEE YOU RISK IT, BUT OKAY... AND WATCH OUT FOR THOSE SIOUX!

JACK WAS RIGHT! HE WAS BACK IN A WEEK WITH THE MULES AND TWO EXTRA DRIVERS, SLIM AND MONK!



YOU'RE A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES, JACK!

PERFECT TIMING! WE'VE DRAINED THE LODGE DRY! NOW WE CAN HEAD BACK!

PHINEAS HELPED US OUT AGAIN AND WAS PLEASED WITH OUR LUCK!

WITH THE MULES LOADED TO CAPACITY WITH GOLD ORE, THE PARTY STARTED ON THE LONG TRAIL TO SINBAD! SUDDENLY...



WHOA! BOY, TAKE IT EASY!

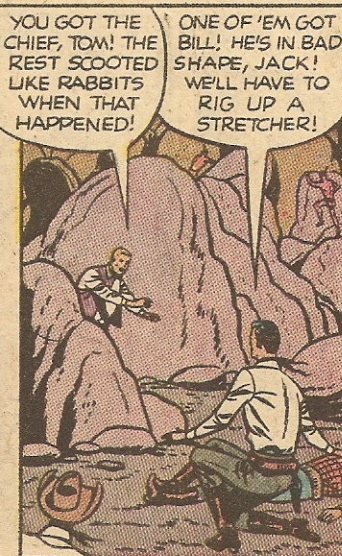
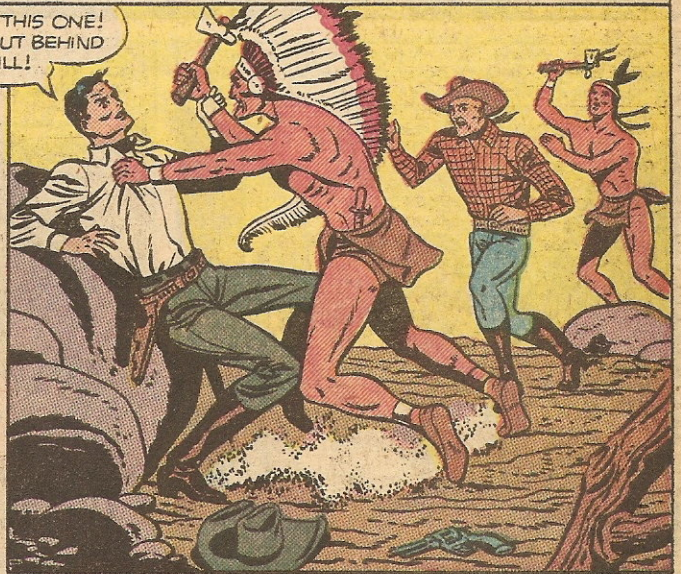
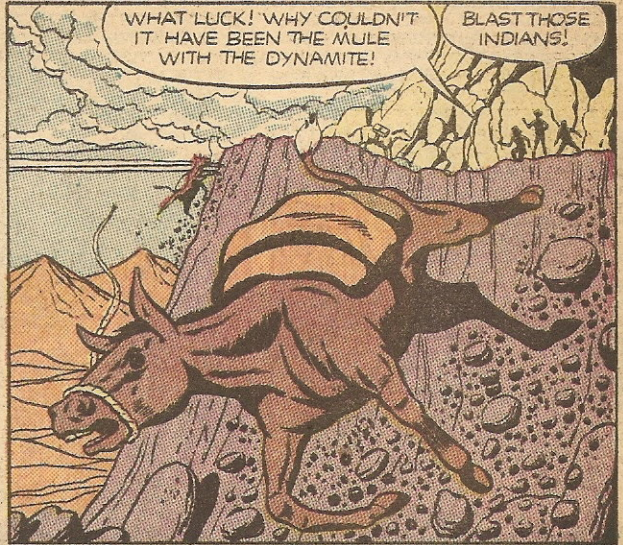
SOMETHING'S WRONG! THE ANIMALS ARE ACTING UP!



IT'S INDIANS! HEY, JACK, BILL! GET BACK!

THAT ARROW BOUNCED RIGHT OFF THE TREE! WHAT KIND OF INDIANS ARE THEY?

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

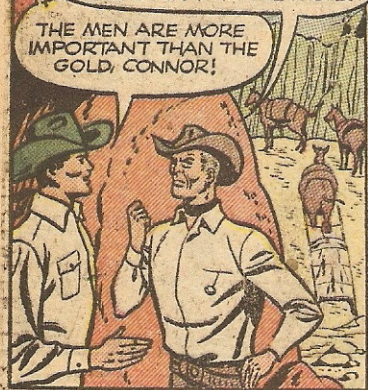


BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

SHORTLY... I HATE TO LEAVE MONK AND SLIM BEHIND, CONNOR! DID YOU CHECK EVERY POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE?

I SURE DID, BOSS! THEY WERE GONERS THE MINUTE THEY HIT THE ROCK! THAT'S A MIGHTY RICH LOAD OF GOLD THAT FELL OVER WITH THE MULES!

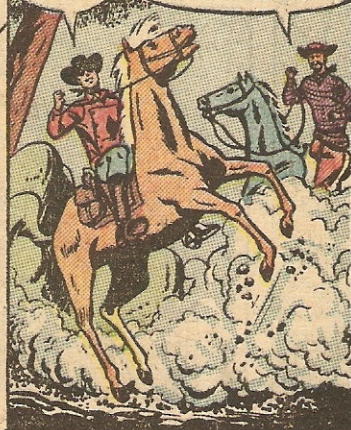
THE MEN ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE GOLD, CONNOR!



MEANWHILE, BLACK DIAMOND AND BUMPER ARE NEARBY CHECKING OUTLYING GOLD CLAIMS!

STEADY, BOY! WHAT'S UP?

SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG, OR RELIAPON WOULDN'T ACT LIKE THAT!



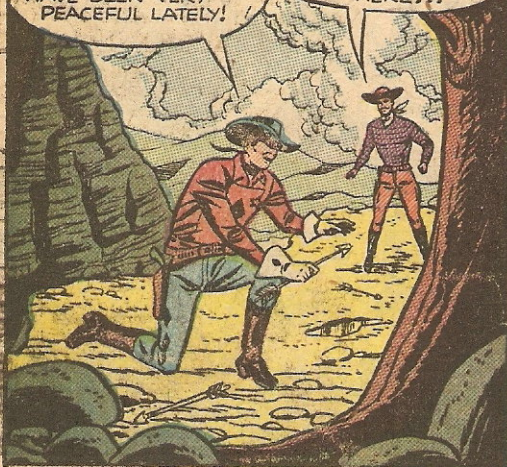
THOSE SHOTS DON'T SOUND GOOD! LET'S GO, BUMPER!

I'M WITH YOU, DIAMOND!



THERE'S BEEN A BATTLE HERE, BUMPER... STRANGE... THE SIOUX HAVE BEEN VERY PEACEFUL LATELY!

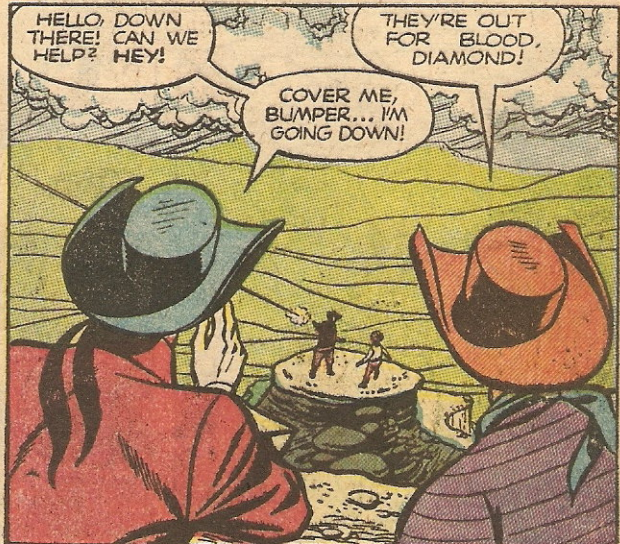
DIAMOND! A COUPLE OF GUYS ARE DOWN IN A GULLEY BACK HERE...



HELLO, DOWN THERE! CAN WE HELP? HEY!

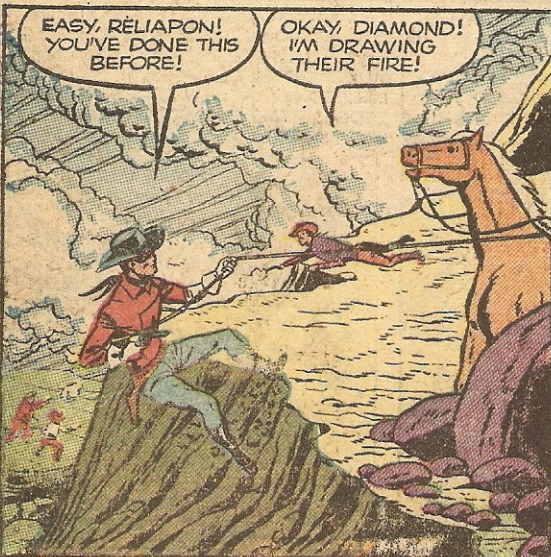
THEY'RE OUT FOR BLOOD, DIAMOND!

COVER ME, BUMPER... I'M GOING DOWN!



EASY, RELIAPON! YOU'VE DONE THIS BEFORE!

OKAY, DIAMOND! I'M DRAWING THEIR FIRE!



OKAY, RELIAPON! HEAVE HO!

GOOD WORK! I'LL SEND ANOTHER ROPE DOWN FOR THE OTHER ONE!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



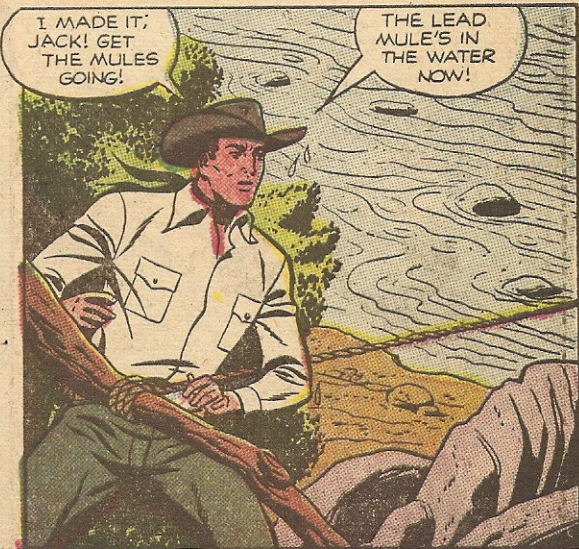
BLACK DIAMOND SOON FOUND OUT WHAT THE MULE-PACK CONTAINED...



LEADING THEIR BOUND PRISONERS WHO FOLLOW ON FOOT BEHIND THEM, DIAMOND AND BUMPER CONTINUE ALONG THE SAME TRAIL...

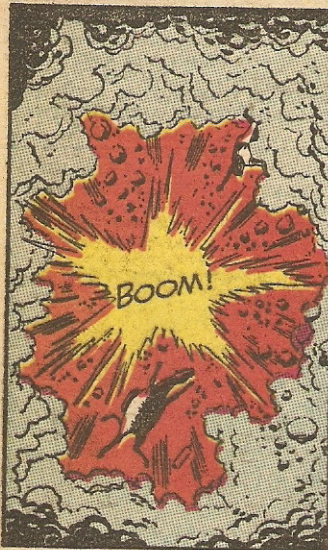
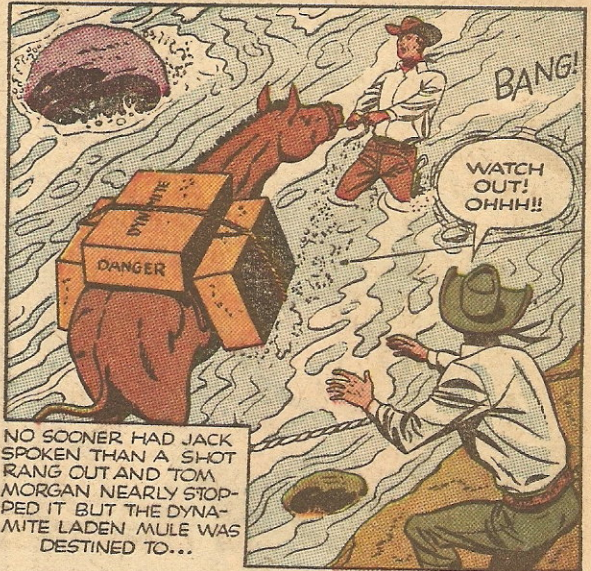


MEANWHILE, TOM MORGAN AND HIS MULE TEAM TRAIN ARE FACING ANOTHER OBSTACLE ON THE TRAIL TO SINBAD... A TORRENTIAL STREAM SWOLLEN BY THE MELTED SNOW OF A LONG WINTER...



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

BUT ON THE OPPOSITE RIVER BANK, TOM'S FRIENDS ARE HAVING THEIR DOUBTS...



MEANWHILE, TOM MORGAN, WHO NARROWLY ESCAPED DEATH BY THROWING HIMSELF FLAT ON THE GROUND, HAS COME TO SOON ENOUGH TO SEE WHAT WAS AT THE BOTTOM OF ALL THE TREACHERY...



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

TOM'S WELL PLACED GOLD NUGGET
KNOCKS PHINEAS OUT!

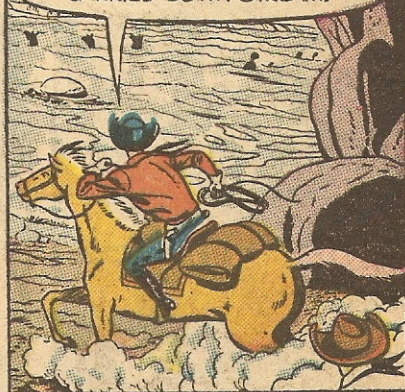


THAT OUGHT TO HOLD YOU
FOR NOW, YOU SKUNK!



MEANWHILE, BLACK DIAMOND, ON THE
OPPOSITE SHORE, WAS TAKING MATTERS
INTO HIS OWN HANDS...

IT'S A GOOD THING THOSE TWO BIRDS
IN THE STREAM ARE SO BUSY SAVING
THEIR OWN LIVES, THEY CAN'T GO
AFTER US! C'MON, JACK, WE'VE GOT
TO STOP THOSE MULES FROM BEING
CARRIED DOWN STREAM!



GOOD THROW!
THE ROPE'S GOING
RIGHT AROUND THE
TREE STUMP!



THAT STOPPED THEM!
PLUNGE IN, JACK!
THERE'S NO TIME TO
LOSE! THERE'S
TOM!



TOM! START
PULLING THEM IN
FROM YOUR SIDE!
THEY'RE STILL TIED
TOGETHER! I'LL TAKE
CARE OF THOSE
DROWNING
RATS!

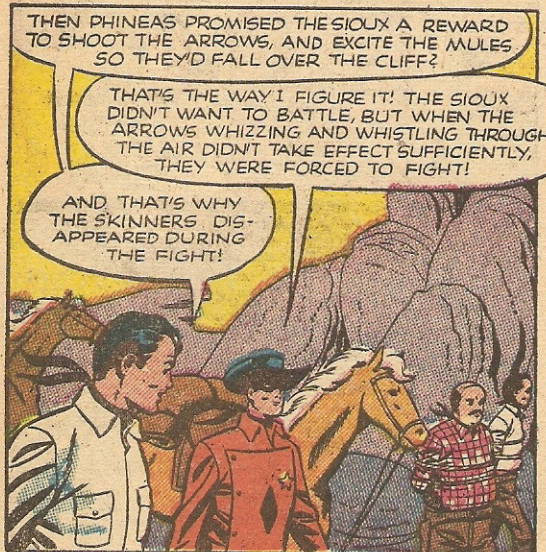


GASP! THE
LAST ONE...
I'D LIKE TO
SEE PHINEAS
HANGED!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

AFTERWARDS, WHEN ALL THE REMAINING MULES HAD BEEN SAVED...



THE END

YOU can WIN

This big 15" Silver Trophy as John Sill just did!



Your Name
on it.



YES! John Sill
like millions, mailed me 10c and a coupon like the one below YOU MAIL NOW!

"Hey, You SKINNY Bag of Bones!"

That's what the boys shouted at me ONLY A FEW WEEKS AGO...

But look at me NOW, PAL...

A Trophy-Winning JOWETT HE-MAN

Like YOU can be SOON!

5-WAY PROGRESSIVE POWER will make YOU an ALL-AROUND WINNER

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FREE
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you can become an
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in 10 Thrilling
MINUTES A DAY

Let me Prove in 10 THIRILLING MINUTES A DAY I can make
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SAYS **GEORGE F. JOWETT—WORLD'S GREATEST BUILDER OF HE-MEN**

Let me make **YOU A WINNER IN EVERY WALK OF LIFE**



YES! JOHN SILL'S SUCCESS STORY can soon be your own success story. HOW A THIN WEAKLING WINS A TROPHY AS A MAGNIFICENT AMERICAN HE-MAN. A few weeks ago, John was a skinny weakling. Everybody picked on him. He had no punch, no guts to fight for his rights. TODAY everyone admires John's movie-star champion build—his mighty ARMS, his heroic CHEST, his rock-like TORSO, his broad BACK, his military SHOULDERS. His newly-born POPULARITY with fellows. The way GIRLS flock around him. His prowess on the ATHLETIC field. His double energy at work.

NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are; if you're 14 or 40, if you're short or tall, or what work you do. All I want is JUST 10 EXCITING MINUTES in your own home to MAKE YOU OVER by the SAME METHOD I turned myself from a wreck to a Champion of Champions

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NOW for quick action and get **FREE PHOTO BOOK**

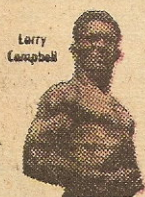
HOW YOU CAN BECOME AN ALL-AROUND ALL-AMERICAN HE-MAN In 10 THRILLING MINUTES A DAY

Which of these 2 one time WEAKLINGS

PAID only a Few Cents to become an

All-Around HE-MAN?

Which One Paid Hundreds Of Dollars?



Rex Ferrus was a weakling, paid a few cents to start building at home into a Champion All-Around He-Man!

Larry Campbell paid me hundreds of dollars to train at my side years ago. Start to become an All-Around He-Man at home with these same secrets for only a few cents like Rex Ferrus did! Now Rex is tops in Sports, Job, Popularity, as you can be.

YES! You'll see INCH upon INCH of MIGHTY MUSCLE added to YOUR ARMS. Your CHEST deepened. Your BACK AND SHOULDERS broadened. From head to heels, you'll gain SOLIDITY, SIZE, POWER, SPEED! You'll become an All-Around, All-American HE-MAN, a WINNER in everything you tackle—or my Training won't cost you one single solitary cent!

Develop YOUR 520 MUSCLES Gain Pounds, INCHES, FAST!
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Suit perfection
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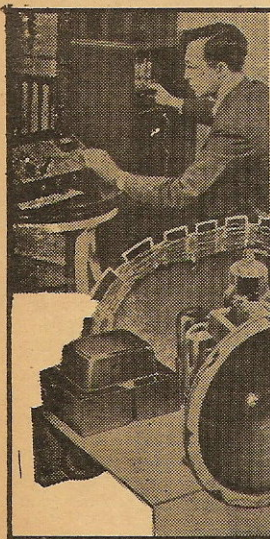
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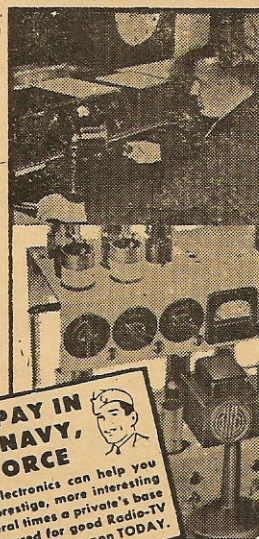


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I can broaden your shoulders, strengthen your back, develop your whole muscular system **INSIDE** and **OUTSIDE**! I can add inches to your chest, give you a vice-like grip, make those legs of yours lithe and powerful. I can shoot new strength into your old backbone, exercise those inner organs, help you cram your body so full of pep, vigor and red-blooded vitality that you won't feel there's even "standing room" left for weakness and that lazy feeling! Before I get through with you I'll have your whole frame "measured" to a nice, new beautiful suit of muscle!

What's My Secret?

"Dynamic Tension!" That's the ticket! The identical natural method that I myself developed to change my body from the scrawny, skinny-chested weakling I was at 17 to my present super-man

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